

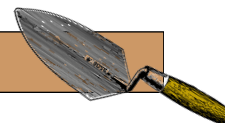


Appleby Archaeology Newsletter



Volume 21 Issue 1

Spring 2018



Words from the Chair

This year's AGM and Members' Evening marked the start of Appleby Archaeology's twentieth year of existence so naturally it was rather a special occasion.

The AGM saw the departure of two long-standing Committee members - Carol Dougherty and Heather Edwards who have both been very active over the years in contributing to the Newsletter and in finding speakers and guides for our events. Coincidentally they have both, at various times, also acted as Membership Secretary. We shall miss them. To add to the gloom we also bade farewell to our excellent Treasurer, Mike Godfrey, who has guarded our finances for the last thirteen years but now feels that he needs to cut down on his responsibilities. It goes without saying that we are enormously grateful for all of his hard work and dedication.

The Committee had been rather concerned that it might be difficult to fill these vacancies, but we were delighted to find that very little persuasion was required for the meeting to produce willing volunteers. First, Chris Wilson said that he was prepared to take up the reins as Treasurer (and also as Membership Secretary) and then Barbara Blenkinship and Adrian Waite confirmed that they were keen to join the Committee. So, we go forward cheerfully into our 20th year with new faces and fresh enthusiasm!

With the AGM concluded we were able to relax and to treat both members and our guests for the evening - Adrian Banford, leader of the Appleby HAZ and Councillor Stan Rooke representing Appleby Town Council - to some archaeological entertainment.

First of all, Martin Railton presented a summary of all that we achieved though the Dig Appleby Project, concluding with a detailed account of the Castle Bank Dig. You can read a full report of his talk later in this Newsletter.

Martin Railton's talk was followed by a short slide presentation from the Chair on **"20 years of Appleby Archaeology"** and personal reminiscences from members, reminding those present of the many activities including conferences, field work instruction, teaching sessions and summer outings enjoyed over the years.

And then there was nothing for it but to open the wine and cut our celebratory cake. - a slightly more elaborate affair than the one we had for our tenth



anniversary. That had been a mere chocolate cake, but this one was a proper fruit cake laced with something potent. Supplied by Jaquie Dewes the cake was decorated with a tiny silver trowel. Phyllis was awarded the honour of cutting the cake (as she'd had previous experience) and Martin Railton was presented with the silver trowel before any tried to eat it.

It was a night to remember - we're still finding cake crumbs in the Supper Room.

Martin Joyce, Chair.

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Digital Archaeology - *photogrammetry*

In days of yore, the job of the surveyor was a perfect misery of tape-measures, theodolites and laborious hours spent poring over drawing boards. No longer. It seems the modern surveyor takes photographs with a drone and then uses them to produce inch-perfect contour maps hassle free. How can this be? Jamie Quartermaine, a project manager with Oxford Archaeology North explained how to a spellbound audience at the December meeting of the Appleby Archaeology Group.

It seems the answer is a technique known as **photogrammetry**, a concept apparently familiar to Leonardo da Vinci. More recently it has been used to produce Ordnance Survey maps. These were initially created manually from stereoscopic images (three dimensional views) using closely spaced pairs of aerial photographs. However this changed with the development of global positioning systems and increasing computer processing power. GPS technology has made it possible to record the relative position of camera and surface or object being imaged very accurately and the mind-bogglingly complex calculations that turn images into maps is now feasible with sophisticated computer software. The combination of high-resolution drone borne cameras and GPS devices allied with user-friendly software, has made an enormous range of applications much more practical at very modest prices.

Jamie has worked as a landscape and building surveyor for over 30 years and seen these developments at first hand. He described how he produced a centimetre-perfect contoured survey of the

surface workings at Greenside Mine - almost a square kilometre of extremely rough ground at an average elevation of 400m - in just a few days. Once the initial photographs are captured, the process used to create a computer-generated map is almost entirely automatic, although it does require input from a skilled interpreter to highlight and label features of interest.

However, this is not the end of the story. Because such surveys are now captured as "digital models", they can be processed in various ways to facilitate interpretation. For example, the vertical axis can be exaggerated to reveal subtle ground features and then illuminated obliquely to highlight ditches and banks of archaeological interest. Plans and sections can be extracted and manipulated and texture added to create fully-realised three dimensional models of mapped surfaces, using the original photographs as a guide. The software even allows an '*observer*' to '*fly*' around the model and view it from many directions.

Photogrammetry works at any scale - equally effective recording a landscape, a building or an artefact. Where a landform is covered by surface vegetation or forestry, conventional optical photography can be replaced by a laser imaging technique known as Lidar. A recent BBC documentary showed how this was used to reveal the extraordinary urban landscape of the Mayan civilization, until now obscured by a thick jungle canopy.

Interior surveys of buildings pose special problems because global positioning systems don't work inside. However hand-held laser-scanners with inertial positioning systems (the same technology that is



used to guide space vehicles) are now available that allow surveyors to produce accurate digital models of interior spaces in the same time it takes to walk around them. Jamie had personal experience of this technique, in one case producing an accurate floor plan for a 240-room, 6 story factory in just 2 days.

What can be achieved with all this information? Well, one member described how photogrammetric records of a building undergoing renovation were so accurate that they had been used to provide precise specifications of damaged stones needed to cut and prepare replacements. In Appleby, now a Heritage Action Zone, detailed recording of its many fine building could help to guide conservation and restoration.

Perhaps Appleby will be buzzing before long, quite literally,

Dig Appleby – Breaking the Ground

The first phase of the fieldwork for the Dig Appleby project known as *'Breaking the ground'* took place between July 2016 and May 2017. These preliminary investigations were designed to explore the archaeological potential of the medieval town focused upon Boroughgate and the associated burgages.

The 2016 reconnaissance assessment started with a preliminary geophysical survey (where possible), followed by excavation of several archaeological trial trenches and test pits and then recording any archaeologically significant artefacts found. The results of the 2016 programme have been reported in the Newsletter previously.

In 2017 two larger trenches were excavated at Castle Bank on the southern edge of the town to uncover and assess the remains of a building shown on Hill's 1754 Plan of Appleby-in-Westmorland. The two trenches (TR1 and TR2) were positioned within a rectangular sunken area of land adjacent to the Hoff road.



TRENCH 2 (in foreground) and TRENCH 1 under excavation, looking northeast

A disturbed level of cobbles was discovered in the western end of Trench 1, which appeared to be part of a yard pavement. A boundary bank of orange sandy clay was unearthed at the eastern end of the trench, covered in small rounded cobbles. An arrangement of large cobbles was found beneath this bank may have represented a possible drain or culvert. No other evidence of structural features was identified in this trench. The cobbled surface and culvert/drain display a comparable alignment with the building illustrated on the 1754 Plan, suggesting they are remnants of that structure, perhaps representing the eastern limit of an external yard.

At the south end of Trench 2, another bank of orange sandy clay was found, also covered in small rounded cobbles, marking the northern limit of a former field boundary seen to cross the field to the southwest. A 0.2m-deep layer of sandstone rubble was identified at the north end of the trench, beneath the plough soil layer, comprised of large sandstone fragments and mortar, apparently left from the demolition of an earlier building. This rubble overlies a cobbled surface of closely-lain rounded river cobbles (average 1.2m diameter), extending across the full width of the trench (1m) and bisected by a later ceramic land drain. The cobbled surface was limited to the south by bank material, and to the north by a possible sandstone wall foundation. A large flag stone was also found, perhaps representing an old doorway threshold, associated with 0.05m-deep layer of fine sand which might have been the bedding layer for a flag floor (since removed).



Section of TRENCH 2 showing excavated features, looking southwest

The several archaeological features found in Trench 2 provide convincing evidence for a building comprising an internal room with stone flagged floor and entrance way, and an external sandstone wall with cobbled path, overlain by a younger layer demolition rubble.

The pottery fragments found in the two trenches are typically domestic in character. This material mostly dates to the 19th century, although there were also small amounts from the 18th and 20th centuries. Two medieval pottery sherds were also recovered; however, these were considered likely to be residual.

In summary, the investigation at Castle Bank identified the foundations of an old building. Based on the limited remains revealed by the trenches, it is possible that the south end of this building was used for human habitation, with animals kept to the north. The date of construction is uncertain. However a comparison of the archaeological finds with the 1754 plan, suggest they are the remains a post-medieval structure, later demolished in the mid-19th century. Further archaeological work is planned as part of the Appleby Heritage Action Zone

Martin Railton

Exotic Adventures of an Appleby Archaeologist

Despite snow on the ground, loyal and hardy members of the Appleby Archaeology Group turned out in force for its February meeting. The speaker for the evening was local archaeologist Trish Shaw who took her engrossed audience on an intriguing journey through time, place and culture in her talk *'Travels of an Archaeologist'*. an escorted tour through three separate countries and three different archaeological periods from the Neolithic in Romania, the Chalcolithic and Bronze Ages in Slovakia and then finally to Ancient Egypt.

The first destination on this fascinating journey was Romania where Trish had spent a week on a large and rewarding site on the



outskirts of the medieval city of Alba Iulia in temperatures of up to 42 degrees Centigrade. The artefacts recovered were both numerous and significant, including large quantities of fine and well preserved Neolithic pottery, stone axe heads, bone implements and clay figurines.

On the next stage of her journey, Trish moved to Šahy, a small town in Slovakia near the border with Hungary,

where she spent a week supervising students on yet another interesting dig, interrupted only briefly by the discovery of a live WW2 hand grenade. The Chalcolithic and Bronze Age artefacts unearthed here were less numerous but just as significant as those found at Alba Iulia.

In the final part of her tour, Trish described a two-week trip she took on the Nile to explore some unique and interesting temples along a stretch of the river between Aswan and Luxor. The first temple examined was the stunning Temple at Philae, famously relocated to higher ground during the construction of the Aswan dam and Lake Nasser. Other highlights included the Avenue of the Sphinx and the Temples of Karnak, Edfu and Kom Ombo. And then to the West Bank and the Valley of the Kings, the Tomb of Tutankhamun, the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, Howard Carter's House and even the Winter Palace in Luxor where Carter announced the discovery of Tutankhamun's Tomb.

It was a truly absorbing and insightful talk which Trish complemented with an extensive photographic catalogue of her travels.

Mick Yates



Winter Lectures

The late Iron Age royal site at Stanwick, North Yorkshire: new perspectives

Prof Colin Hazelgrove

Thursday 12th April

Stanwick in the Tees valley is one of the largest prehistoric fortified sites in Europe. First occupied around 80 BC, it soon developed into a regional centre. Its 7km-long perimeter along with the exceptional Roman imports of this date suggests that the complex was the seat of Carimandua, the client ruler of the Brigantes. The talk will show how new research is continuing to challenge accepted understanding of Stanwick.

Summer excursions being considered at the moment include walks around the 16th-17th century village of Hartsop, Sarah Losh's church at Wreay and Stanwick/ Piercebridge Roman fortifications with winter talks about Medieval Northumbria, Rheged, the Carlisle Bath House, Vernaculat buildings and Abbeytown so get ready.



Twenty Years of Appleby Archeology

1998 - 2018



2015	Castle Bank excavation (2017)	Phyl Rouston	2012 - 2017	Martin Joyce >2107
	Boroughgate test pit survey (2016)			
	DIG APPLEBY - Breaking the Ground (launched July 2016)			
2010	Castrigg Geophysics Research Project 2015	Richard Stevens	2007 - 2012	
	DIGAPPLEBY proposal submission 20 th Jan 2015			
	Brackenber Moor Archaeological Evaluation (2013)			
	Investigation of a Bronze Age Cremation Cemetery on Bracken Moor (2011)			
	CONFERENCE 2009: Medieval life in the Eden Valley Druidical Judgement Seat Excavation: Phase II (2009) Geophysical surveys at Brackenber Moor (2009) Druidical Judgement Seat Excavation: Phase I (2008)			
2005	CONFERENCE 2007: People and the land: settlement in the Eden Valley. October 6 th 2007	Harry Hawkins	2002 - 2007	
	Druidical Judgement Seat Survey (2007)			
	CONFERENCE 2005: The Romans in the Eden Valley Field Survey at Kirkland (2004)			
	Potash pits assessment at Kirkland (2004)			
2000	'Artefacts Day', Market Hall (2003)	Martin Railton	1998 - 2002	
	Time Team excavation of Appleby Jail (2001)			
	Prehistoric Earthworks at Brackenwaite Survey (2000)			
1998	Inauguration of Appleby Archaeological Group January 1998			



Ancient Eden

ISSUE 1 Summer 1998 Newsletter of the Appleby Archaeology Group

Editorial

Appleby Archaeology Group came into being in January this year. Its aims were to:

- 1) Promote a better understanding of the past and the role of archaeology (through talks, visits and teaching activities)
- 2) Provide the opportunity to take part in archaeology at an amateur level.

I hope we are well on the way to fulfilling the first objective. Our first two meetings were well attended and I want to thank both Andrew Pierce and Mike Daniels for their support and participation. Those who were unable to attend last month missed an enlightening talk about the current state of archaeology in Cumbria which was followed by lively discussion regarding recent developments at the site of the Appleby Friary. Despite some heated moments Mr. Daniels admitted to me afterwards that he had enjoyed the evening and much preferred it to some meetings he had been to which were quite dull in comparison! Events for the summer are included on page 3.

In order to address the second objective there will be a meeting in June for any members interested in helping with our own research projects (see below). This may initially involve a parish survey but ultimately include the excavation of selected sites. No previous experience is necessary in

Research Group Meeting

At the first meeting we will discuss the possibilities for archaeological research in and around Appleby.

Meet 7.00pm at the Crown & Cushion, Appleby Market Place
Monday 15th June

Inside: Archaeology

CONTENTS:



SUMMER UPDATE

Appleby Archaeology Group

May 1999

Thank you everyone for the membership subscriptions which are essential for funding the groups activities, talks and newsletter. We are also grateful to the number of people who have given their time and energy to the group (including several of our speakers) free of charge.

NEWS

This edition of the Update includes two reports by Phyllis Rouston on recent meetings. Phyllis, who is the group secretary, is doing an excellent job keeping members (and the public) informed about our events. Thanks also to Georgina Plowright for publicity. We have had good coverage recently both in the Cumberland and Westmorland Herald and the Westmorland Messenger, and our first mention on Radio Cumbria!

In order to inform a wider audience of our activities work will start shortly on our own Web pages. This will initially provide information about our events, access to reports on meetings, local research and sources of local history. Further details will be included in future editions of the Update.

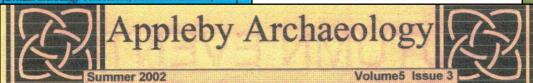
Thanks go to Harry Hawkins for an immensely enjoyable afternoon exploring the landscape around Shap Abbey. We had a record turnout for an outdoor event (24 in all) and the weather fortunately stayed fine. Harry gave us a detailed introduction to the history of the abbey followed by a tour of the abbey lands. All were intrigued by his keen observations of the landscape, field boundaries and archaeological remains, which helped to set the scene for the summer months as most archaeologists are out digging during the good weather. Therefore the group will be concentrating on outdoor activities during June, July and August. This will also allow us to concentrate on organizing our own research during this period (see the back page).

Martin Railton

DIARY

Bronze Age in Britain Exhibition

This panel exhibition is at Kendal Museum until the 12th June and is well worth a visit. It covers several topics of recent research on the Bronze Age in Britain including: settlement, ritual monuments,



The Archaeology of Smardale A Walk with Tom Clare

Tom Clare was the county archaeologist for Cumbria for many years and is well known for his guide book to the archaeology of the county. On Saturday 20th June he shared his interest in landscape with the group on a walk to Smardale.

The first feature we were introduced to was the old deer park wall which crosses the landscape and is thought to have been 12 foot high when complete. This encloses an area which contains a number of settlement sites which appear to have been farmsteads of either prehistoric, Romano-British or medieval date. The uncertainty is due to there having been no useful archaeological investigation in the area. Associated with these sites are a number of dykes which cross the landscape and appear to have divided it up into cultivated and uncultivated land.

A deep hollow way marks the route of the old main road between Kirkby Stephen and Kendal. As it crosses the beck years of traffic have eroded away any soil to expose the well worn bedrock beneath. Close to where the road crosses a tributary of the river Eden a number of curious mounds can be seen, known locally as the Giant's graves. It has been suggested that these long low mounds could have been rabbit warrens used by the monks of Ravensthorpe for fresh meat but the interpretation remains uncertain.

At the end of the walk was a visit to the site of Severals, a large Romano-British settlement and en-

riched fields which are made clear by air photographs. Tom made an interesting point about a rectangular house within the larger settlement which may belong to a later period. He compared the site to that of Ribblesdale when an Anglian settlement has been excavated that appears to have re-used an earlier Romano-British one. He suggested that the same pattern may have been repeated at Severals. At one point the field walls here converge on an earlier Bronze Age cairn which was incorporated into the settlement. This provided a clear

excavation was to locate the hearth and obtain charcoal for Radiocarbon dating.

The excavation revealed the walls of a circular hut 15m in diameter. The entrance faced east towards the lake but was badly damaged. Within the hut several large flat slabs had been laid leading from the entrance to a central hearth pit also stone-lined. To the west of the hearth a large flat board had one face which had been rubbed smooth, presumably by the action of grinding wheat.

As the excavation progressed it

Appleby Archaeology

Autumn 2005

Volume 8 Issue 3

Romans in Eden Conference 17th November 2005

Our first archaeology conference (and the first of its kind in Appleby) was highly successful. Four speakers provided us with an enjoyable day exploring the evidence for the Romans in the Eden Valley and Cumbria. Seventy people attended the event from all parts of the county.

Prof. David Shotter was chairman for the day and also our first speaker. With his usual easy style he discussed the background, arrival and legacy of the Romans in Cumbria. The last 30 years have seen an increase in discovery in the North West, and with it ideas about the Roman North have evolved and changed. He suggested that trade with the Roman world may well have preceded the establishment of a Roman military presence in Cumbria. This was undertaken via two routes, one from Lancaster via the Lune Valley, the other over Stainmoor. He cited the marching camp at Rey Cross and a network of signal stations, which mark this campaign. Early forts were established at strategic locations including Low Borrow Bridge, Brougham and Carlisle. He explained how later forts attracted civilian settlements consisting of as many as 3-4000 people. These in turn would have had a substantial effect on the surrounding landscape.

Our second speaker, Richard Newbould, a local archaeologist for Cumbria, explained the Roman finds, recorded in the Environment Record, clustered around Kirkby Thore and of these sites have been later excavated. Where is the

Roman fort at Appleby? Surely there should be one!

Richard went on to discuss archaeological work carried out in the Eden Valley over the last 15 years at Roman sites. This has mainly consisted of archaeological evaluations carried out in response to road and housing developments. Most significantly these have identified the presence of a Roman civilian settlement south of Kirkby Thore Roman Fort, following the route of the A66 eastwards. Also, work at French Fields near Brougham has identified what appears to be a Roman industrial settlement, perhaps providing goods to the nearby garrison. He bemoaned the lack of publication of many commercial archaeological pro-

jects there. These consisted of construction of funerary pyres which clothed and decorated were placed. Prestigious goods, food offerings were provided. Presence of whole horse car suggests that cavalry men (and possibly women) were being kept there, and probably originated in central Europe. The cremated remains were often placed in funerary urns and deposited within a pit or stone-lined cist. However pyre debris was also placed directly into the ground. The original excavators saw this as evidence for grave-robbing but this theory has now been discarded.

Our final speaker, Frank Giaccio

Appleby Archaeology Newsletter

Spring 2007

Volume 10 Issue 1

Under new Management!

We had quite a change around at the AGM back in January it seems. Harry Hawkins put down his gavel as Chairman (see his valedictory address below) and is replaced by Richard Stevens. Martin Railton decided that it was time to let go of the Newsletter too and so this issue comes to you courtesy of myself, Martin Joyce. I hope I shall be able to maintain Martin's high standard. We also welcomed a new committee member, Heather Edwards, who has taken over as Publicity Officer.

Call for Articles

If you've been somewhere interesting - and especially if you took a camera - why not jot down a few notes and share your experience with other members? It couldn't be easier now we've all gone digital (what do you mean, you don't know which button to press - what do you think your nephews and nieces are for?).

The editorial email address is: mjoyce@ilburn@gmail.com

Langdale Stone Axe Quarry?

In the spirit of the above, I thought you might be interested in a visit I made to the south scree on Pike o'Stickle last month. I think it was Aaron Watson who showed us a slide of some workings in the gully-wall there and told us that it has been suggested these might have been used to quarry axe-material.

This rather took my fancy, since I have a peculiar and inexplicable interest in all things underground. So when I found myself in Langdale in the vicinity of Pike o'Stickle I thought I'd take a look.

This turned out to be easier said than done. The scree is surprisingly mobile and the top section is full of large, wobbly boulders. Lower down the going is easier but one is uncomfortably aware that the scree that you slalom down so cheerfully and with such delightful tinkling noises is composed principally of prehistoric axe flakes. I couldn't help wondering about the ethics of this at all.

Still, in the interests of scientific investigation I persisted and found the "quarry" very easily (see photo below). The first thing I noticed was that the working was suspiciously square-cut. It doesn't look like the sort of thing that could have been produced by hitting the cliffs with a large stone. Moreover, inside, where you might have expected to find unweathered evidence of hammering, the only percussion-marks were clearly modern.



Pike o'Stickle: south scree workings

Finally, at the back of the hole (it's only a couple of metres deep, by the way) a quartz vein has been worked up to and to the left in a narrow cleft.

Your fearless reporter has therefore concluded that the "prehistoric stone-axe quarry" is in fact a modern mining trial.

Of course, the mining could have enlarged an original, smaller, prehistoric scrape. Hmm... What is certain is that someone was very busy indeed up there. The volume of axe flakes up there is of positively industrial proportions!

Martin Joyce

Looking Ahead from Behind the Chair

My time was up; very thoughtfully when the constitution of the Group was eventually drawn up, it was decided that the chairman would serve only for four years and then retire. The rule is intended to prevent any one person becoming chairman for a very long time and therefore maybe immovable! Hence our four year term and my hap-

continued on page 4





Appleby Archaeology Newsletter



Volume 11 Issue 2: Summer 2008

Out and about with Appleby Archaeology

How the time does slip by – the Christmas decorations have only just come down and the longest day is now merely weeks away!

It seems, however, that your Committee has not been entirely idle.

Plans are now well-advanced for next year's Appleby Archaeology Group Conference. The general theme will be "Medieval Eden" and it is already clear that there is a lot to talk about. It would be a good idea to avoid booking any long holidays next October.

More immediately, members should have had details of our plan to **Excavate** at "The Druidical Judgement Seat" (DJS) on Brackenber Moor in July. This will be our contribution to this year's "Archaeology Week". The excavation has been funded by a grant from the Cumberland Westmorland AA Society, for which we are extremely grateful.

This is an exciting opportunity for members to get their hands dirty and to involve themselves in true research – we currently have no dating evidence for the DJS.

We have had an excellent response to our call for volunteers and if you have not al-



plans for DJS and, if funding can be obtained, it is possible that there will be a second week of excavation later in the year

Finally, we have already had our first summer outing. A select



Appleby Archaeology Newsletter



Volume 12 Issue 3: Autumn 2009

Editorial

The berries are back on the rowan trees, and here we are again with the Autumn issue of Appleby Archaeology News - the summer seems to have passed in a flash. Yet the Group can hardly be said to have been idle and I believe we can look back with satisfaction on both another successful season of excavation and an exceptionally popular programme of outings.

If you missed Frank Giecco's guided tour of the Scordale mine workings, I'm afraid you missed a treat. But you can still read about it below in Tony Greenwood's account. Last year, you may remember, we had to abandon our plans for this trip amid apocalyptic downpours and concerns for member safety. This year, we demonstrated the value of persistence.

Persistence was also the watchword at Brackenber Phase II, this year's excavation week. The weather was now disinclined to do us further favours, finds were thin on the ground and loins needed to be girded and upper lips stiffened. Once again, though, Appleby Archaeology members seem to have relished the challenge and appear also to have rather enjoyed themselves. Carol Dougherty's article overleaf will give you a flavour of what it was like.

Finally, on a perfectly beautiful day in early August, an unusually large group of members, led by Erik Matthews enjoyed a delightful tour of the medieval estates in the upper Eden Valley. Again, you can read all about it (and there's a lot to say) later in this Newsletter. And this rather leads me onto:

The Autumn Conference

Colm McNamee, one of our speakers is unwell and sadly has had to withdraw from the Conference. Happily, however, our recent association with Erik Matthews (archaeologist) has been

Visit to Scordale mines

On 21st June, the group celebrated Fathers' Day by walking from Hilton up Scordale Beck to explore the remains of the lead and baryte processing facilities at the top end of the valley.

The first edition ordnance survey map shows a tramway, a millrace, a crushing mill and numerous buildings in the vicinity of the Murton and Hil-



Appleby Archaeology Newsletter



Volume 13 Issue 1: Spring 2010

Editorial

Your Committee has been thinking hard about what the Group might do this summer. This hasn't been easy when we've all been up to our waists in snow (Martin Raiton reports that the icicles up at North Pennines Archaeology's Nenthead office have been a serious health and safety hazard this year), but the days are lengthening nicely now and it's possible to imagine we might be warm again one day.

Obviously Brackenber has to be the centre of attention. One thought is that we might have a look at the sandstone caves in the side of St George's Gill adjacent to the Druidical Judgement Seat site. Personally I find this a particularly exciting prospect as I like caves and there must be a good chance of finding something here which could inform our understanding of the very earliest history of the area. Health and Safety will have to be consulted again, of course, and there are probably special SSSI considerations too. Martin Raiton is investigating.

More realistically, perhaps, we are looking at further investigation of the Roman signal station identified by the Group's geophysics study in May 2009. The Golf Club has given its permission in principle, and English Heritage are looking for projects so might provide funding. We think they might be further encouraged if we offered to work with North Pennines Heritage Trust and included a study of Augill

ation, where the Trust owns the associated mill complex. Martin Raiton has also suggested that future excavation might be opened to the public. This would help financially and also pool of enthusiastic labour to do the heavy

work. In the short term, please note the latest plans for the summer walks.

Martin Joyce

The Staffordshire Hoard

Like most people in the country who are interested in history and archaeology, and many thousands who not, I was fascinated by the discovery in July this year of the largest hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold ever found. You can imagine my delight when, on a pre-Christmas visit to London I spotted a poster advertising a small exhibition of objects from the treasure that was being held in the British Museum



Appleby Archaeology Newsletter



Volume 14 Issue 3: Autumn 2011

Group News

New Arrangements at NPA

Your Committee became very alarmed earlier this summer when it learnt that North Pennines Archaeology might be disbanded. As many of you will know, Appleby Archaeology has always enjoyed close links with NPA. Fortunately, matters have now been satisfactorily resolved. Martin Raiton writes as follows:

"As a result of the financial instability of the North Pennines Heritage Trust, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd has now ceased trading. However a new company, NP Archaeology Ltd has been formed as a subsidiary company of Wardell Armstrong LLP. All of the staff from North Pennines Archaeology have been kept in employment and it is hoped that the new company will maintain close ties to Cumbria."

Naturally we are all very relieved for Martin. We are confident that NP Archaeology, as we must now learn to call it, will flourish under its new management.

Summer Activities

Elsewhere, I think it's fair to say that this has been one of the Group's best summers for some years. The outings to Rayseat and Barrow were extremely well-attended and the excavation on the Maiden Way was also well-supported. For details, read on.

And now, since the Autumn is now decidedly upon us, may I say that I look forward to seeing you again at the new season's lecture programme.

Best wishes, Martin Joyce

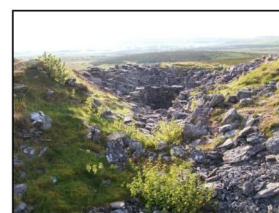
Evening Walk to Rayseat Pike

Appleby Archaeology's first evening walk of the summer took place on the summer solstice. So, given our track record, you can imagine what the weather forecast was like. Nevertheless, at least a dozen members

assembled at the draughty cattle-grid near Mazon Wath, warily contemplating the shower clouds massed ominously in the distance.

In actual fact the worst that happened was that a particularly vicious gust caught my best sun-hat as I got out of the car. The pristine white cotton flew quite some distance and landed in a puddle where it slowly sank. Nobody else seemed at all dismayed by this and so the party obediently set off, following their dripping guide across the rough moorland.

The cairn was a gratifying surprise to many. It really is quite surprisingly large. There's quite a lot about it in Tom Clare's "Prehistoric Monuments of Cumbria" so I was able to tell the group about some of the burial structures that had been found underneath the "entrance" end of the cairn. We'd only just received details of the Bronze Age "cremation monument" on Brackenber (the one that was meant to be a Roman Signal Station), so we couldn't help pondering some of the similarities. Here's a photograph:



Eastern end of Rayseat Long Cairn, courtesy of www.themodernantiquarian.com

Our next port

of call was a tiny stone "circle" overlooking Sunbiggin Tarn. Since this comprised no more than a dozen large pebbles hidden in the bracken I was staggered to find that everybody agreed this was worth seeing too. I can only conclude that some members lead very sad lives.



Appleby Archaeology Newsletter

Volume 15 Issue 2 Summer 2012

Group News

First of all, a warm welcome to Dorothy Ashton, Gabriel Blumies, Elisabeth Hodgson, Dorothy Macfadden and John Millard who have all joined Appleby Archaeology recently. We look forward to seeing you at some of the summer events and next season's lectures in the Supper Room. Membership is now at an all-time high (71) so your committee feels it must be doing something right!

Feedback

We've no wish to rest on our laurels, however, and feedback from the Group is something we take very seriously. You may remember that the last newsletter included a survey form designed to poll member interests. We had an excellent response to this (20 returns) and you might be interested to hear the results. Fieldwalking (scored 18), attracts most enthusiasm, followed by Landscape Survey (14) and Excavation (14). Topographic survey (11) and Geophysics (10) are least popular - well, that geophysics kit is heavy and nobody is getting any younger! Overall, people are keen to do a broad range of fieldwork activities.

Response to feedback

So, by way of response we've scheduled a couple of extra activities for the summer. First of all, on Thursday 19th July, there'll now be a Finds workshop to follow-up the interest sparked by March's fieldwalking workshop. And secondly, sometime later in July, we think it would be good to spend one or two days at Brackenber with the theme of 'Identifying and Recording Bronze Age Barrows'. There are further barrows on the moor which it would be very useful to record and survey, to compare with what we excavated last year. We will probably time this to coincide with the Festival of British Archaeology. Further details will follow by email.

Hornby Hall

We are still taking bookings for the trip to Hornby Hall on 7th July. There are currently 8 seats available for this trip leaving from the Appleby area, with a possibility of another 3. We'll be leaving at around 9.30am. If you would like to travel to see this exciting site (details in the insert with the last newsletter) or, indeed, if you wish to take your own car and offer some more seats, please contact Richard Stevens on 01228 55784 or by email at app.arch@richardstevens.plus.com by the end of June. The only obligation is to chip in something for fuel.

Have a good Summer.

Best wishes, *Martin Joyce*

Fieldwalking Workshop

The fieldwalking workshop at the end of March attracted so much interest that we eventually had to close bookings and put enquiries onto a reserve list. We all enjoyed the day very much and it's certain that we will want to repeat the event. Unsuccessful applicants for the first session will be contacted again once we've got a firm plan. Annie Hamilton-Gibney, our tutor, began the day with a detailed exposition of 'how to do field walking and what

GYPSUM IN CUMBRIA

A History of the Gypsum and Anhydrite Mining in Cumbria



IAN TYLER

Appleby Archaeology Newsletter

Volume 16 Issue 4 Winter 2013

Group News

This Newsletter concludes another busy year for Appleby - so much so that I'm struggling to find space for all the reports!

Our next meeting, January's "Members" meeting, is of course also our AGM and I enclose an Agenda together with Minutes for last year's meeting. You'll be pleased to hear that there are no plans to increase our membership charges. I enclose a renewal form in the hope that we'll be seeing you again next year.

One thing to note is that we are currently looking for a Publicity Officer as Tony Greenwood is very busy at present and would like to hand over to someone else. If you think you could help, please put your hand up at the AGM.

Finally, may I wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2014

Martin Joyce

Brackenber 2013

"Why do we volunteer?" - a question I asked myself frequently on a cold, windy and often wet day up on Brackenber this year. I spent only one day at the dig but I have been involved in all the previous digs and fieldwork on the moor so perhaps I can reflect on why we become involved.

There is, of course, the pleasure at the end of the day of sinking into a hot bath and easing the aches in shoulders from sieving heavy wet soil. On the first dig in 2008 it was warm and sunny and the soil easy to sift. That year the bath was required to get rid of the sand in hair, mouth and everywhere!

This year's excavation was planned for what turned out to be a good week of weather in early September, but a number of reasons led to its postponement to October and typical autumn weather. The project formed part of Althorpe Archaeology's 'Review of the Bronze Age in the North Pennines', Appleby Archaeology members were well

represented among the volunteers who were supervised by professional staff from WA Archaeology. We did, however, miss Martin who, due to the change in date, was not able to spend as much time on site as he (and we) would have liked.

Knowledge of the Bronze Age on the moor has come from previous fieldwork. The Althorpe Archaeology evaluation of 2011, on the west side of the moor, revealed an early Bronze Age cremation site and the AppArch excavations in 2008 and 2009 of the Druidical Judgement Seat, to the south east, recovered three Bronze Age flint tools.

Appleby Archaeology Newsletter

Volume 17 Issue 3 Autumn 2014

Group News

I hope you've enjoyed this summer as much as I have. Remarkably, almost all of AppArch's outings so far have been blessed with excellent weather and we were pleased to note their popularity with members. The Hartlepool trip is still to come of course (20th Sept) and that's one I've been really looking forward to.

In October we start our Autumn lecture series when Erik Mathews will be bringing us up to date with progress at Hornby Hall. Several of our members have been working at the site and have been dropping heavy hints that Erik has quite a lot to tell us. Details of this talk and the rest of the Autumn lecture series can be found on the back page.

I hope you're remembering that our lecture evenings will be taking place in Centre 67 and not the Market Hall from now on, so please don't turn up in Boroughgate out of habit and wonder where we are! If you do, we're just 200 yards away behind the Tullon Arms. The Centre, which is a former chapel, is adjacent to the Broad Close car park in Chapel Street. Parking is free after 6pm, so this should prove very convenient if you come by car. I hope that the map below will make things clear.



Looking forward to seeing you in our new venue.

With best wishes, *Martin Joyce*

DigAppleby Papers

- DigAppleby Project Project Proposal 20/01/2015
- DigAppleby Project Brief 2015
- Dig Appleby - Breaking the Ground Report 2017
- Dig Appleby - Breaking the Ground Tri-fold Brochure

Research Papers

- Castrigg Geophysics Report (2015)
- Brackenber Moor Archaeological Evaluation (2013)
- Investigation of a Bronze Age Cremation Cemetery on Brackenber Moor (2011)
- Druidical Judgement Seat Excavation II (2009) Evaluation report
- Druidical Judgement Seat Excavation II (2009) Evaluation figures
- Geophysical Surveys at Brackenber Moor (2009)
- Druidical Judgement Seat Excavation I (2008) Evaluation report
- Druidical Judgement Seat Excavation I (2008) Evaluation figures
- Druidical Judgement Seat Survey (2007)
- Potash Pits at Kirkland (2004)
- Field Survey at Kirkland (2004)

works at Brackenthwaite (2000)



An Evening Walk to the Prehistoric Monuments on Askham Fell

About twenty Appleby Archaeology Group members, plus a couple of spouses, enjoyed a summer's evening walk on Moor Drove, Askham Fell in the company of Martin Raiton. We were there to look at the prehistoric monuments, to learn about how the sites related to each other and to consider how they fitted into the wider landscape.



Appleby Archaeology Newsletter

Volume 19 Issue 1 Spring 2016

Group News

January's AGM was unusually well-attended. It was good to see so many people prepared turn out in the middle of winter, but particularly so on this occasion since there were important issues for us all to consider.

Phyllis Rouston, our Chairman, reviewed the situation on the venue for our lecture meetings. The unexpected closure of Centre67 last Summer had forced us back into the main Market Hall and, although Centre67 was now open again, our short experience of using their meeting room had revealed some deficiencies and Phyllis didn't feel she could commend a return. At the same time, the main Market Hall was less than ideally suited to our needs and there was still no prospect of us regaining our Tuesday evening slot in the Supper Room.

Phyllis announced, however, that it had been established that the Supper Room would be available to us on the second Thursday of each month (ie as opposed to the second Tuesday, our current regular meeting date) and that a quick poll of members had suggested that this might be acceptable.

After discussion it was agreed that we should change our regular meeting date from the second Tuesday of the winter months to the second Thursday. This change would come into effect from October of this year.

Standing in for the Treasurer, Martin Joyce explained that Finances were currently sound but that looking ahead it was clearly time for us to review our subscription rates. Martin proposed that we should increase individual membership from £12 to £15 and joint membership from £20 to £25. He also proposed that we should increase the visitor's fee from £2 to £3 and possibly ask for a small donation for summer events where the activity has some financial cost, for example the payment of a guide.

The present fees had been in place for 4 years and it was felt that the increased charges would still represent excellent value. After discussion it was agreed that the proposed new charges should come into effect from January 2017.

Phyllis also spoke firmly about the imperative need of bringing fresh faces onto the Committee. See below for her 'call to arms'.

Martin Joyce

Appleby Archaeology needs YOU

My concern this year is for our future. Most of you will be aware of the difficulties that the Appleby and West-

Appleby Archaeology Newsletter

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A note from the Chair

This is turning out to be rather a busy year!

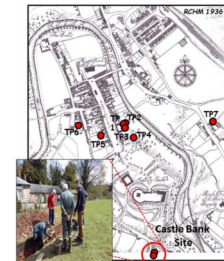
As I'm sure you know, Appleby was recently awarded 'Heritage Action Zone' (HAZ) status and will now receive financial assistance to progress a range of heritage-related projects. AppArch was involved with the initial bid for HAZ status and is now working with the HAZ management. We don't yet know exactly what this will mean for us but it's sure to open exciting opportunities to develop our existing DigAppleby project. Speaking of which, last month saw us digging again at the top end of the town (see the Blog for details) and on Sat 15th July (the start of the National Festival of Archaeology) we'll be in the TIC installing a display to present the results of the project to date. This will include a very nice (free) brochure that features many fine colour photographs of our members in action variously surveying, digging and transcribing documents. Make sure you're there to get a copy! Last month's event at there was a sell-out event with over 30 people turning up to hear an excellent impromptu lecture by Rachel Newman and although the weather was very discouraging, Richard Gravil's commentary about St Michaels Church at Barton on 8th June was fascinating.

Have a great summer, *Martin Joyce*

Dig Appleby

Martin Raiton had obtained permission for DigAppleby to excavate some small archaeological trenches at Castle Bank on the edge of Appleby, in order to look for evidence of buildings depicted on the 1754 town plan. This is one of the few plots in Appleby believed to have been occupied in the medieval period, which has not since been re-developed. Here's Martin's initial appraisal of the results:

"Just to say a big thank you for all the hard work over the last three days. Three days go so fast when you are digging and the Friday was certainly a rush to the finish line! You all moved a lot of earth (and the backfilling yesterday was hard work) but it was well worth it as



we found the dwelling we were looking for and more. The finds are still to be analysed by Sue from Wardell Armstrong, but what we do know is that there was certainly a building on the site, which was probably subdivided, with a dwelling to the west, and area for animals to the east, situated on a sunken house platform surrounded by clay and stone banks. The excavated evidence included the remains of a flagged floor with a western entrance doorway; sandstone walls which were held together with mortar; external (?) cobbled path, and a rough cobbled yard area (for animals) with drain (found last minute by Andy). The building was demolished in the late 18th or early 19th century based on historic mapping and the finds recovered. We have some limited medieval evidence (including a possible clog/shoe), but the date of the original structure so far is uncertain. We have certainly proven that archaeology survives in the field, and we may get to revisit in the future to reveal more of the site now we have confirmed its survival. Thank you again for all your help and hard work. Enjoy your bank holiday weekend!

Best wishes, *Martin Raiton*

